

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19620

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO
SUBJ: UK/FRENCH/FRG ARMAMENTS COOPERATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: UK, FRENCH, AND FRG DEFENSE
MINISTERS WILL MEET IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS ARMAMENTS
COOPERATION, IEPG, AND TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE. FRENCH
HAVE RAISED BILATERALLY WITH UK POSSIBILITY OF ADVANCE
MODEL HARRIER FOR USE ON FRENCH AIRCRAFT CARRIERS. END
SUMMARY.

2. IN MARGINS OF WEU ASSEMBLY JUNE 20 IN PARIS, UK
DEFENSE MINISTER, FRED MULLEY, TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN
NEAR FUTURE HE WILL MEET WITH HIS FRENCH AND GERMAN
COLLEAGUES TO DISCUSS FURTHER COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS
PRODUCTION. MULLEY SAID THAT THE THREE MINISTERS WOULD
EXAMINE WAYS TO GET THE IEPG MOVING WITH A VIEW TOWARDS
IMPROVING THE CONTENT OF THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE.

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3. MULLEY CONTINUED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH
FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES DURING DINNER JUNE 19.
MULLEY SAID THAT BOURGES HAD ALSO RAISED FACT
THAT GOF IS NOW CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF CON-
STRUCTING MODEL-SIZE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WHICH WOULD BE
EQUIPPED WITH V/STOL AIRCRAFT. IN THIS REGARD BOURGES
HAD ASKED MULLEY ABOUT POSSIBLE PRODUCTION OF IMPROVED

MODEL HARRIER. MULLEY COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT THIS WAS AN ATTRACTIVE IDEA, BUT THAT FRENCH DID NOT CONTEMPLATE THAT NEXT GENERATION CARRIER (IF DECISION IS MADE TO BUILD SUCH) WOULD BE READY UNTIL 1992. MULLEY DID NOT KNOW WHETHER POSSIBILITY OF HARRIER PRODUCTION COULD BE MAINTAINED THAT FAR INTO THE FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT BOURGES ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF V/STOL AIRCRAFT WITH SECRETARY BROWN DURING HIS VISIT TO PARIS MAY 22.
HARTMAN

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